

CMS - Regulation Station

K48 – Written Evacuation Plan

Incorrect written fire safety plans are a common source of deficiencies during Life Safety Code (LSC) surveys. K48, K154, and K155 are the K tags that correspond to the LSC requirements for written fire safety plans. K48 requires compliance with LSC Sections 18.7.2.2 or 19.7.2.2, which state that a written fire safety plan must cover the eight listed items in those code sections. The following are a few examples of issues that result in deficiencies being cited at K48:

1. The written fire safety plan fails to address the evacuation of the smoke compartment, which was a new requirement to the 2000 Edition of the LSC. Related to this are issues when a plan states residents will be evacuated to another area of the building. Using an undefined term, such as “another area”, does not cover the requirement for evacuation of the smoke compartment, because “another area” may be in the same smoke compartment as the fire.
2. The written fire safety plan instructs staff to determine the size of a fire and act accordingly. Fire plans have been reviewed where staff are instructed to extinguish the fire and not remove residents or activate the fire alarm if, in the staff member’s opinion, the fire is small. A fire plan should not have different actions based on a staff member’s determination of the size of a fire. Upon discovering a fire, a staff member’s first action should be to rescue anyone in immediate danger. While doing so, they should call out a code word alerting other staff members of the fire so they can activate the fire alarm.

These examples do not address all possible reasons for a citation at K48.